



Isiah Leggett, County Executive  
Timothy Firestone, Chief Administrator Officer

Catherine Matthews, Director  
Mark Firley, UCAB Chair

**April 7, 2016**

**UCAB Quality of Life Committee Meeting**  
**Monday, April 11 7:00pm-9:00pm**  
**Kramer Upcounty Regional Services Center**  
**12900 Middlebrook Road, Germantown**

*Topic: Our Youths' Use of Drugs*

*Guests: Ben E. Stevenson II, Substance Abuse Prevention Program Manager*  
*Montgomery County Health & Human Services*

*and*

*Lt. Ron Smith, Special Investigations Division's Drug Enforcement Section,*  
*Montgomery County Police*

***Board meetings are open to the public!***

Sign language interpreter services will be provided only upon request with notice as far in advance as possible, but no less than 72 hours prior to the event. If these or other services or aids are needed to participate in this activity, please call 240-777-8040 or email a request to [catherine.matthews@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:catherine.matthews@montgomerycountymd.gov).

\*\*\*\*\*

**Leggett to Council: Reduce Proposed Property Tax Increase**

County Executive Ike Leggett yesterday amended his 2017 budget to the County Council to reduce his proposed property tax increase by 46 percent following the announcement by Governor Hogan that he will allow to become law a Maryland General Assembly bill that extends the repayment schedule for counties to comply with the US Supreme Court's Wynne decision. The legislation, Senate Bill 766, saves Montgomery County \$33 million for the upcoming year, reducing the Wynne costs to \$17 million. Reducing the property tax increase from 3.9 cents per \$100 assessed valuation to 2.1 cents -- a 46 percent reduction -- brings the County Executive's proposed average monthly property tax increase down from \$27 to \$18.67.

Click [here](#) to see the memo from the County Executive to the County Council.

See the press release at [http://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgportalapps/Press\\_Detail.aspx?PrID=15957](http://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgportalapps/Press_Detail.aspx?PrID=15957)

\*\*\*\*\*

## Montgomery County Council Introduces Bill that would Defer Increases on Property Taxes for Many Seniors

*Legislation that would provide seniors with tax relief and help them meet their property tax obligations in Montgomery County.*

Expedited Bill 10-16 would enable seniors 65 and older, with individual or combined gross incomes of \$80,000 or less, to defer increases on property taxes on their principal residence until they sell their home. Interest on the deferred taxes would accrue at a 0 percent interest. Under the income threshold of \$80,000, which is the senior median income in Montgomery County, the eligibility criteria would capture approximately half of senior households in the County.

See full press release at [http://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgportalapps/Press\\_Detail.aspx?PrID=15954](http://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgportalapps/Press_Detail.aspx?PrID=15954)

\*\*\*\*\*

### Montgomery County Recreation to Host “Move More Montgomery Festival” Saturday, April 30 12:00noon-4:00pm Bauer Drive Community Recreation Center 14625 Bauer Drive, Rockville



Montgomery County Recreation is committed to healthy living through healthy eating and physical activity. Move More Montgomery is an initiative to encourage residents to get up and get moving to lead to better health and wellness. This ambitious and comprehensive new program endeavors to inform and enhance the health and wellness of residents.

The Move More Montgomery Festival, a field-day type festival, will feature a community walk, sport and fitness demonstrations, active performances and mini-classes, interactive wellness booths and the Fido Fitness Arena. The event is rain or shine. In the case of rain, the Festival will move indoors and the Fido Fitness Arena will be canceled.

The Move More Montgomery Festival is also the culminating event for the Move More Montgomery 100 Mile Challenge. Residents who completed the challenge by walking or running 100 miles in 100 days will be recognized at the event.

*The event is free and open to the public and dogs!*

*(pictured: Bob & Nicky Lowry, participants in the 100 Mile Challenge, just arrived in Nepal.)*

\*\*\*\*\*

## Montgomery, Prince George's County Council committees to have rare joint meeting on Thursday, April 7

The Montgomery County Council's Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy and Environment (T and E) Committee and the Prince George's County Council's Transportation, Housing and Environment Committee held a rare joint meeting featuring committees of each body at the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) headquarters in Laurel.

The committees will address issues of mutual interest including the vision, priorities and issues involving the WSSC that serves both counties and a status report on the future Purple Line, the light rail line that will link the Bethesda Metrorail Station and the New Carrollton Metrorail Station.

See full press release at [http://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgportalapps/Press\\_Detail.aspx?PrID=15958](http://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgportalapps/Press_Detail.aspx?PrID=15958)

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Update: Lake Whetstone Dredging Project**

The contractor has begun to establish the roadway that the trucks will be using to bring in large equipment needed for the dredge process. Once the roadway is in place, the contractor will begin to grade (move soil) the staging area to create a work pad. They will then place stone down and pave with asphalt. Once this is complete, they will bring in the large on-land dewatering and filtering devices. A crane will be used to place the large equipment on site and to launch the dredge boat.

The County will remove approximately 20,000 cubic yards (approximately 2,000 truckloads) of sediment from Lake Whetstone. The sediment from Lake Whetstone will be removed using a hydraulic dredge. The dredge will pump the removed sediment to shore where a dewatering plant will separate the sediment from the water. Clean water will be returned to the Lake. The sediment removed from the Lake will be taken by truck to a facility that can accept the sediment. Two areas of the Lake are selected for dredge, Area 1 at the north end and Area 2 at the south end. The construction activities will take place in the Lake and on the shoreline by the boat house and in the area of the volley ball court.

The trucks removing the sediment will use Lake Shore Drive to haul away the sediment. The project should take approximately 8 months. The County will make every effort to minimize the impact of the construction activities on the residents living around Lake Whetstone.

*Here's a message from DEP: Look for turtles basking on logs!*

Our senior biologist indicates that the timing is just right to begin the dredging of sediment as the critters that burrowed into the mud for the winter will be out in search of food and companionship. Hopefully you will soon see the turtles basking on logs. They seemed very unaffected by the dredge process. This is likely due to the fact that the dredge boat causes very little disturbance above the surface. Once they get used to seeing it motor around the lake, the animals should pay little attention to it. And just a reminder, the dredge arm moves very slowly under the water. The consultant informs us that the submerged aquatic life has plenty of time to scoot out of the way of the dredge arm.

**Safety:** The contractor installed chain link fencing to protect the public and to secure construction area. In addition, the silt fence (the shorter fence with black cloth on it) was installed to keep sediment from leaving the sight. Please do not cross any fences.

**During this project, the parking lot, picnic and volleyball area, dock and boathouse, and portions of the walking path will be closed, and recreational boating within the Lake will be prohibited.**

For more about this project, visit <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DEP/Resources/Files/downloads/stormwater/fact-sheets/Whetstone-2015-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Montgomery County is Part of Washington DC Metro Area Rank #1 in Environmental Protection Agency's List of 2016 Top Cities**

The Washington, DC metropolitan area, which includes Montgomery County, has earned a spot in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) annual list of U.S. metropolitan areas with the most ENERGY STAR® certified buildings. The Top Cities list ranks cities according to how many buildings in their area earned ENERGY STAR certification in 2015. To qualify for the ENERGY STAR, a building must outperform 75 percent of similar buildings nationwide, by earning an ENERGY STAR score of 75 or higher on a 1-100 scale.

See press release at [http://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgportalapps/Press\\_Detail.aspx?PrID=15952](http://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgportalapps/Press_Detail.aspx?PrID=15952)

\*\*\*\*\*

## THE VOTE BY MAIL DEADLINE IS APPROACHING FOR THE APRIL 26<sup>TH</sup> PRIMARY ELECTION

Voters have one week to request an application to vote by mail for the April 26 Presidential Primary Election. The deadline for receipt of your completed application to vote by mail is April 19 at 8:00 p.m. if mailed, or by 11:59 p.m. if faxed to 240-777-8560 or e-mailed to [absentee@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:absentee@montgomerycountymd.gov).

The vote by mail application may be found online on the Board of Elections website at [www.777vote.org](http://www.777vote.org) or [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/elections](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/elections). Follow all instructions and return the completed -signed- application by mail, fax, or e-mail. Ballots will be mailed within approximately three business days.

Voters may also submit a written request, as long as it includes the following information: name, date of birth, Montgomery County address, the address to which you want your ballot sent (if it is different than your Montgomery County address), daytime telephone number, and signature. The absence of any of this information could result in a delay in processing the application.

If you wish to pick up a ballot in person, you may do so at the Board of Elections at 18753 N. Frederick Avenue, Suite 210 in Gaithersburg, at any time between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. through Election Day. The elections office will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. During Early Voting (April 14 - 21) the office is open from 8:30 a.m. through 8:00 p.m., and on Saturdays, April 2, 9, and 23, the office is open for voting from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. On April 16 and April 17 the office is open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. On April 10 and April 24 the office is open from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. If you need to pick up a ballot for another person, call 240-777-8550 for details about serving as an agent.

For more information, call 240-777-VOTE, visit [www.777vote.org](http://www.777vote.org), our mobile friendly website at [m.montgomerycountymd.gov/elections](http://m.montgomerycountymd.gov/elections), the Maryland State Board of Elections' website at <http://elections.maryland.gov>, or follow the Montgomery County Board of Elections on Facebook or Twitter.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Montgomery Serves Awards**  
**Monday, May 2 6:30pm-8:30pm**  
**Imagination Stage**  
**4908 Auburn Ave, Bethesda**

Please join us at Montgomery County's annual awards event to recognize some of its outstanding community leaders and dedicated volunteers who help make the County the very special place it is today.

Register [here](#). View [calendar information](#).

*Free to the public! Seats are limited!*

\*\*\*\*\*

**For more News from the Office of the County Executive, visit:** <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/news>

*For other news and meeting agendas, visit:*

**County Council** <http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/csltmpl.asp?url=/content/council/news/news.asp>

**Planning Board** [http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/department/news\\_releases](http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/department/news_releases)

**Also check out the latest from:**

Department of Public Libraries <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library>

Department of Recreation <http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/rectmpl.asp?url=/content/rec/index.asp>

Department of Transportation <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dot/index.html>

Department of Environmental Protection <http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/deatmpl.asp?url=/content/dep/dephome/index.asp>

Department of Permitting Services <http://permittingervices.montgomerycountymd.gov/DPS/general/Home.aspx>

Montgomery County Volunteer Center <http://www.montgomeryserves.org>

Office of Community Partnerships <http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs100/1102184431012/archive/1117215431562.html>

Commission for Women <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cfw/index.html>